

Gender in a Changing Society: SocU260

Summer 2 Semester, 2005

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Office Hours: Monday and Thursday 3:15-4:30 and by appointment

Course Overview:

Everyday, gender norms and prescriptions shape the ways we think about, act upon, and discuss the world we live in. From the moment we are born, boys and girls are treated differently based on the roles that are assigned by the dominant culture. In this course, we will examine the ways in which societal expectations and our own perceptions of sexuality, violence, family, religion, education, health, work, and public policy are shaped by gender. We will look at gender theories in the contexts of femininities and masculinities, as neither are possible to understand without an analysis of the other. We will also explore the ideas of gender beyond the exclusive dichotomy of men and women. It is my goal that each of you will leave this course with a comprehension of the sociological understanding that gender is not essential (unlike sex) but rather, it is a social construction and a complex process that is continuously created, maintained, and transformed.

Required Textbooks (available in one package at the NEU Bookstore):

Kimmel, Michael S. and Michael A. Messner. 2004. *Men's Lives*. Boston: Pearson Education Inc. (ML)

Reading Women's Lives. 2005. Boston: Pearson Education Inc. (RWL)

Course Requirements:

- **Attendance and Participation (40%):** Daily attendance is essential to the understanding of course material and the successful completion of this course. As I have not assigned a typical textbook, I will be supplementing the readings with lectures that outline the different topics. Your grade for attendance and participation will include attendance (which will be taken daily), weekly unannounced reading quizzes, participation in class discussion, and in-class movie assignments. **You are allowed two absences. It is not necessary to explain these absences to me, but I advise you to use them wisely. More than two absences will only be excused for emergency circumstances.**
- **Two 5-6 page Take-Home Exams (15% each):** I will hand out the take-home exams the Monday before they are due. You will have one week to complete them.
- **6-8 page Final Project (30%):** For your final project which will be due the Monday after the last day of class, you will be asked to interview someone who identifies as a different gender (or sexuality) than yourself. You will write an analysis based in the readings and lectures that are relevant to your topic. No outside research is necessary. I will hand out the complete assignment during the second week of class, as you should be working on your questions during the semester.

Expectations of Students:

All students are expected to be in class regularly, on time. Please do not leave early unless you have discussed it with me via email before class. If you are late, or must leave early, please do so as quietly as possible. All assignments turned in late (any time after the class meeting in which it was due) will be penalized one letter grade for each day it is late. After 4 days, the student will receive a zero for the assignment. I will not accept emailed papers. All papers must be stapled, have page numbers, and have a bibliography with each article used cited, in the ASA format which can be found on the website:

<http://www.asanet.org/apap/quickstyle.html>. **I will not accept any papers that are not stapled, do not have a bibliography, and are not paginated.**

I have a no-tolerance policy about plagiarism. If a student is caught copying another author's work without citing his or her work, or plagiarizing in any other way, that student will automatically fail the course. Additionally, I will take every step necessary to follow through with Northeastern University's procedures for disciplining students who do not follow the standard of academic integrity.

Schedule of Assignments (note: assignments must be completed for the date under which they are listed):

Tuesday, June 28:

- Course introduction

Unit 1: Studying Gender: Masculinities and Femininities

Wednesday, June 29:

- Judith Lorber: "Night to His Day: The Social Construction of Gender" (RWL pg. 1-16)
- Introduction: *Men's Lives* (ML pg. ix-xvii)

Thursday, June 30:

- James Messerschmidt: "Varieties of Real Men" (ML pg. 3-18)
- Manning Marable: "The Black Male: Searching Beyond Stereotypes" (ML pg. 21-27)
- Alfredo Mirande: "'Macho': Contemporary Conceptions" (ML pg. 28-38)

Monday, July 4:

- No Class: 4th of July Holiday!!!

Tuesday, July 5: FINAL PROJECT ASSIGNMENT HANDED OUT

Unit 1 (cont.)/Unit 2: Gender and Education: Childhood thru College

- Michelle Fine et.al: "(In) Secure Times: Constructing White Working-Class Masculinities in the Late 20th Century" (ML pg.66-78)
- Michael Kimmel: "Gender Class and Terrorism" (ML pg. 79-83)
- Barrie Thorne: "Girls and Boys Together...But Mostly Apart: Gender Arrangements in Elementary Schools" (RWL pg. 135-159)
- Ellen Jordan and Angela Cowan: "Warrior Narratives in the Kindergarten Classroom: Renegotiating the Social Contract?" (ML pg. 103-114)
- Ritch C. Savin-Williams: "Memories of Same-Sex Attractions" (ML pg. 116-132)

Wednesday, July 6:

- Martin Espada: "The Puerto Rican Dummy and the Merciful Son" (ML pg. 133-139)
- Amy L. Best: "Romancing the Prom" (RWL pg. 73-95)

Thursday, July 7:

- Michelle Fine: "Sexuality, Schooling, and Adolescent Females: The Missing Discourse of Desire" (RWL pg. 97-133)

Monday, July 11:

- Peter Lyman: "The Fraternal Bond as a Joking Relationship: A Case Study of the Role of Sexist Jokes in Male Group Bonding" (ML pg. 169-178)
- Rocco L. Capraro: "Why College Men Drink: Alcohol, Adventure, and the Paradox of Masculinity" (ML pg. 190-200)
- Timothy Jon Curry: "Fraternal Bond in the Locker Room: A Profeminist Analysis of Talk About Competition and Women" (ML pg. 204-216)

Unit 3: Health and Body in the Context of Gender

Tuesday, July 12:

- Susan Bordo: "Reading the Slender Body" (RWL pg. 17-39)
- Susan Cahn: "From the 'Muscle Moll' to the 'Butch' Ballplayer: Mannishness, Lesbianism, and Homophobia in U.S. Women's Sport" (RWL pg 41-72)

Wednesday, July 13:

- Robin D. G. Kelley: "Confessions of a Nice Negro, or Why I Shaved My Head" (ML pg. 335-341)
- Anne Fausto-Sterling: "How to Build a Man" (ML pg. 342-346)
- Gloria Steinem: "If Men Could Menstruate" (ML pg. 347-348)
- Thomas Gerschick and Adam Miller: "Coming to Terms: Masculinity and Physical Disability" (ML pg. 349-362)

Thursday, July 14:

- Audre Lorde: "Breast Cancer: Power vs. Prosthesis" (RWL pg. 325-345)
- Jack Hitt: "Who Will Do Abortions Here?" (RWL pg. 347-367)

Monday, July 18: FIRST TAKE HOME EXAM HANDED OUT

- Rafael Diaz: "Trips to Fantasy Island: Contexts of Risky Sex for San Francisco Gay Men" (ML pg. 363-378)
- Angela Bonavoglia: "Making Love in the Dark" (RWL pg. 369-378)

Unit 4: Gender in the Family

Tuesday, July 19:

- Judith Stacey: "The Making and Unmaking of Modern Families" (RWL pg. 245-266)
- Francine Deutsch: "Strategies Men Use to Resist" (ML pg. 469-475)
- Michael C. Hanchard: "On 'Good' Black Fathers" (ML pg 497-505)

Wednesday, July 20:

- Nan Hunter: "Sexual Dissent in the Family: The Sharon Kowalski Case" (RWL pg. 237-243)
- Brian Miller: "Lifestyles of Gay Husbands and Fathers" (ML pg. 476-482)
- Lionel Cantu: "A Place Called Home: A Queer Political Economy: Mexican Immigrant Men's Family Experiences" (ML pg. 484-494)

Unit 5: Gender in the Context of Difference and Inequality

Thursday, July 21:

- Anna Julia Cooper: "The Status of Woman in America" (RWL pg. 161-171)
- Sojourner Truth: "Ain't I a Woman?" (RWL pg. 173-174)
- Gloria Anzaldua: "Preface to Borderlands/La Frontera" (RWL pg. 175-177)
- K. Tsianina Lomawaima: "You're a Woman, You're Going to Be a Wife" (RWL pg. 179-202)

Monday, July 25: FIRST TAKE HOME EXAM DUE AT THE START OF CLASS

- Yen Le Espiritu: "All Men Are Not Created Equal: Asian Men in U.S. History" (ML pg. 39-45)
- The National Organization for Men Against Sexism: "Statement of Principles" (ML pg. 564)
- Suzanne Pharr: "Homophobia: A Weapon of Sexism" (RWL pg. 203-224)
- Lois Gould: "X: A Fabulous Child's Story" (RWL pg. 225-235)

Unit 6: Intersecting Gender and Sexuality

Tuesday, July 26:

- Audre Lorde: "Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic As Power" (RWL pg. 267-274)
- Judith Katz: "Heterosexual Privilege: Owning My Advantage, Uncovering My Collusion" (RWL pg. 275-278)
- Anne Koedt: "The Myth of the Vaginal Orgasm" (RWL pg. 279-288)
- Danahy Sharonrose: "Myths/Realities of Bisexuality" (RWL pg. 289-292)

Wednesday, July 27:

- Michael Messner: "Becoming 100 Percent Straight" (ML pg. 421-426)
- M. Rochlin: "The Heterosexual Questionnaire" (ML pg. 427)
- Robert Staples: "Stereotypes of Black Male Sexuality: The Facts Behind the Myths" (ML pg. 428-432)
- Tomas Almaguer: "Chicano Men: A Cartography of Homosexual Identity and Behavior" (ML pg. 433-443)

Thursday, July 28:

- Susan Cochran and Vickie Mays: "Sociocultural Facets of the Black Gay Male Experience" (ML pg. 447-452)
- Julia O'Connell Davidson and Jacqueline Sanchez Taylor: "Fantasy Islands: Exploring the Demand for Sex Tourism" (ML pg. 454-464)

Unit 7: Gendered Violence

Monday, August 1: SECOND TAKE HOME EXAM HANDED OUT

- A. Ayres Boswell and Joan Spade: "Fraternities and Collegiate Rape Culture: Why Are Some Fraternities More Dangerous Places for Women?" (ML pg. 179-188)
- Jason Schultz: "The Antirape Rules" (ML pg. 218-223)
- Tim Beneke: "Men on Rape" (ML pg. 406-411)
- Terry Kupers: "Rape and the Prison Code" (ML pg. 412-417)
- Albert Roberts: "Introduction: Myths and Realities Regarding Battered Women" (RWL pg. 293-306)
- Lisa Duggan: "An Historical Overview: Feminist Historians and Anti-Pornography Campaigns" (RWL pg. 307-320)
- Achy Obehas: "Women Who Batter Women" (RWL pg. 321-323)

Tuesday, August 2:

- No Reading Assigned!!

Unit 8: Gender in Religion

Wednesday, August 3:

- Eleanor Leacock: "Montagnais Women and the Jesuit Program for Colonization" (RWL pg. 379-400)

Unit 9: Gender and Work

Thursday, August 4:

- Nina Bernstein: "Study Says Equality Eludes Most Women in Law Firms" (RWL pg. 401-405)
- Meg Cox: "Excerpt from 'Zero Balance: Watch Out! Your Retirement Funds are in More Trouble Than You Think'" (RWL pg. 407-414)
- Doreen Carvajal: "For Immigrant Maids, Not a Job But Servitude" (RWL pg. 415-420)
- Alice Kessler-Harris: "The Meaning of Work in Women's Lives" (RWL pg. 421-436)

Monday, August 8: 2ND TAKE HOME EXAM DUE AT THE START OF CLASS

- Christine Williams: "The Glass Escalator: Hidden Advantages for Men in the Female Professions" (ML pg. 227-239)
- Jennifer Pierce: "Rambo Litigators: Emotional Labor in a Male-Dominated Occupation" (ML pg. 241-255)
- Timothy Nonn: "Hitting Bottom: Homelessness, Poverty, and Masculinity" (ML pg. 258-265)
- Marianne Cooper: "Being the 'Go-To-Guy': Fatherhood, Masculinity, and the Organization of Work in Silicon Valley" (ML pg. 268-286)

Unit 10: Gender in the Media

Tuesday, August 9:

- Shari Lee Dworkin and Faye Linda Wachs: "The Morality/Manhood Paradox: Masculinity, Sport, and the Media" (ML pg. 507-519)
- Lance Strate: "Beer Commercials: A Manual on Masculinity" (ML pg. 533-542)

Unit 11: Gender in the Contexts of Politics and Policy

Wednesday, August 10:

- Amy Caiazza: "Does Women's Representation in Elected Office Lead to Women-Friendly Policy?" (RWL pg. 437-449)
- Barbara Norrander: "Is the Gender Gap Growing?" (RWL pg. 451-465)
- bell hooks: "Men: Comrades in Struggle" (ML pg. 555-563)

Thursday, August 11:

- no reading assigned: Conclusion of Class

**FINAL PROJECT DUE TO THE SOCIOLOGY OFFICE (500 HOLMES HALL) MONDAY
AUGUST 15 BY 1:30 PM.**